

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2021

Chairman Riley opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Notice which was sent to the Daily Record and New Jersey Herald on January 21, 2021 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Michael Balogh - absent	Greg Poff – present (arrived @ 7:03)
Mark Crowley - absent	Steven Rattner - present
Robert Hathaway – present	Rudy Shlesinger – present
Joseph Keenan – absent	Lester Wright - present
Rosemarie Maio – present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communication as listed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Riley opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES: Chairman Riley noted two corrections. On page three under “Discussion” it states Mr. Maio and should be corrected to read Ms. Maio. On page six under “Open to the Public” it states “Mr. Hathaway stated the weed control program will no change” and should be corrected to read “will not change.” On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio, the Minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting, as amended, were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Rattner abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

09-17-21 People First Property & Casualty – Public Officials Liability Renewal
09-20-21 Gary Curnow – Opposition to lowering of the lake
10-01-21 Edgewood Partners Insurance Center – Certificate of Liability Insurance re: Solitude Lake Management
10-12-21 Solitude Lake Management – Service History Report
10-13-21 USDA – Goose Report
10-18-21 Selective Insurance – Commercial Liability Policy Changes

Ms. Maio questioned the USDDA Goose Report. Mr. Hathaway stated the report goes back several years to give the trend on the goose removal. In 2015 there were 5 nests, 16 eggs and they removed 72 birds; in 2016 there were 4 nests, 20 eggs and bird removal was not under written by Netcong, noting this is when the Board began to take charge of the program; in 2017 there were 3 nests, 12 eggs and they removed 45 birds; in 2018 they did not find any nests, found no eggs and removed 31 birds; in 2019 there were no nests and no eggs and they could not do a round up that year; in 2020 there were no nests and no eggs and only 25 birds were removed; in 2021 they found no nests and no eggs and they removed 48 birds. Mr. Hathaway noted it is the policy to only record nests that contain eggs. Mr. Hathaway stated the program is a success. The geese are well managed. Chairman Riley commented that there are much less swans on the lake this year.

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – Chairman Riley reported the Canal Society is back in session and they are doing Canal Days at Waterloo Village. Their website contains the schedule.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported the mud snail problem is increasing and HAB in the watershed is increasing. Mr. Rattner also reported that at Stephen's State Park there is troubling species endangered, but no additional information was disclosed due to it being proprietary information. Mr. Rattner reported the Chevron Pipeline has been removed and they did a great job. They are now repairing the shoreline. Mr. Rattner also reported that Segment C, the last part of the Musky to make it to Wild and Scenic designation is on the Secretary's desk and is ready for a signature. Mr. Rattner informed the Board that Warren County is gung ho on deer hunting and they are all passing ordinances on allowing deer hunting, not just with a bow. They made a determination that the deer are de-foresting the area.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – In Mr. Balogh's absence, there was no report. Chairman Riley noted the Board's charter states if a member has not attended four consecutive meetings they can be removed. Chairman Riley stated Mr. Balogh has not been present to participate in meetings for a number of months and he asked the Clerk to send a letter to the Mayor of Stanhope requesting the seat be declared vacant and a new appointment made. Chairman Riley noted Mark Crowley has also not been present for a majority of the meetings and he asked the Clerk to send a letter to the Mayor of Roxbury requesting his seat be declared vacant and a new appointment made. Chairman Riley also asked that a letter be sent to the State requesting State representation, noting the Board has not had a State representative since Dan Bello sat on the Board.

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio reported she is working with a group of kayakers who may want to do a regatta on the lake and if they do, she would like to tie it in with the fishing contest or Stanhope Day or Netcong Day. The Board thought it was a good idea. Ms. Maio will continue working on it.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported he attended the LMCA meeting and asked Pat Marsico to attend this Board meeting. Mr. Hathaway said he explained to the LMCA the Board's management plan of 100 acres in the center of the lake and the product material that he recommended for the homeowners to use. He also told them the Board is looking for volunteers to help with the work and some of them offered to help. The LMCA has since communicated to him they would like to participate in the bulk buying and do additional acres, if the Board would do the purchasing (bulk purchase). Mr. Hathaway told them it would need to be voted on by the Board and he recommended the Board do it. Ms. Maio expressed concern with the Board taking money from the LMCA. Chairman Riley agreed, and said the Board can accept a donation. The LMCA can donate the money to the Board and make it for a specific purpose. Mr. Hathaway stated he met with Glenn Sullivan about hiring him as a consultant. Mr. Hathaway noted he holds a license to do this application and Mr. Sullivan assured him the material which he is familiar with is adequate for him to administer it with a handheld GPS. The expense would be about \$1,500. Mr. Sullivan suggested they do some data collection, which Mr. Hathaway agreed with. Mr. Hathaway said he would like marker points by some of the buoys. They will use the same data collection design used on the last one with Pat Woods. Pat Marsico, present in the public, spoke on behalf of the LMCA's commitment to the program. Ms. Marsico stated Mr. Hathaway told them about two products and that the homeowners and the LMCA could buy it at the Board's bulk price, which was attractive to all of them. The LMCA spoke and came up with an amount of \$6,750 to invest. The LMCA will purchase 1,200 pounds of the product the Board is using and asked if the Board would apply it. Ms. Marsico said

she did not think that with the LMCA and homeowners, they could purchase a whole pallet (48 bags) and she asked if they could purchase half of the Board's pallet (24 bags). With the 1,200 pounds, they will treat 40 feet out from the shoreline of homes at a rate of 40 pounds per acre. They will also monitor it. Mr. Hathaway stated that using the same product makes it easier and cleaner. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board will be purchasing multiple pallets and if a homeowner wanted the larger tablets they could buy it at the wholesale rate as long as they mention they are part of this project. The cost is \$300 per bag. Mr. Hathaway noted they need a device to throw the tablets. Mr. Hathaway stated they are in a position to do more than a third of the lake. The water level will be monitored. Mr. Hathaway also reported the jon boat and harvester were taken out of the water with the assistance of the Netcong DPW. Mr. Hathaway said he was unable to assist and the volunteers handled it. The hydro rake has been removed and is currently being stored at the Stanhope Well 5 site. At some point the purchaser will come and collect it. All of the other equipment sold has been removed. Chairman Riley noted he cancelled the insurance and since the Board no longer owns the equipment, they have no responsibility for it. The hydro rake will be picked up in another 2 to 3 weeks. The new owner is having a problem with the truck to transport it. Mr. Hathaway stated he will spec out the materials and they need a GPS unit and a spreader; which items can be purchased over the winter. In the first quarter of the year he will attend the LMCA meetings. Mr. Hathaway noted this is a significant partnership as more of the product in the lake is more effective and services all their missions. Chairman Riley asked for a motion to solidify the verbal agreement between the LMCA and LMRPB to move forward with the process for the micro biotic program they have been discussing. Ms. Maio said it should be made clear that the Board is the lead agency and will be responsible for making all decisions relative to this project. The Clerk suggested a written agreement be prepared between the LMCA and LMRPB and then a resolution adopted authorizing the Board to sign the agreement rather than a motion. The Board agreed it would be better to have a written agreement between the parties. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board agreed to creating an agreement between the Board and the LMCA to administer the micro biotic program discussed at this meeting. Mr. Hathaway stated he does not think they need the Board's attorney to draft the agreement and he offered to prepare the agreement.

Lake Improvement – Mr. Hathaway reported the committee met prior to his meeting with the LMCA and authorized the conversation he had. The committee also directed him to meet with Glenn Sullivan, which he has done. Chairman Riley suggested abolishing the Lake Improvement Committee since it has served its purpose. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Lake Improvement Committee was abolished.

Operating Budget – There was no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chairman Riley noted the Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. The total net worth is \$250,305.40. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the following bills are to be paid if and when funds are available:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation	\$ 500.00
People First Property & Casualty – Public Officials Liability Premium	\$ 889.30
Selective Insurance – Insurance Installment Payment	\$1,880.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 2.79
Ag Choice – Aquatic Vegetation Disposal (30 cu yds)	\$ 330.00
Solitude Lake Management- Lake Management Services (10/01)	\$2,249.00
Debit/Credit Card:	
Intrepid Carting & Hauling – trucking weeds (9/24/21)	\$ 300.00

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio - yes	Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Poff - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
	Chairman Riley – yes

NEW BUSINESS:

2022 Budget – Chairman Riley noted the 2022 budget has been presented to the Board. He moved some money from insurance to legal because the Board has been using the attorney more than they have in the past and the insurance will go do due to the sale of the equipment. The insurance is going down about \$2,000 which more than covers the increase in legal. Chairman Riley noted there is no increase from last year to this year in the Board’s request to the municipalities and counties. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the 2022 budget as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio - yes	Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Poff - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
	Chairman Riley – yes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Riley opened the meeting to the public.

Pat Marsico asked if she said the LMCA is doing 40 feet out or 50 feet out. She clarified they will be doing 50 feet out for a total of 11 acres. Ms. Marsico requested, when the Board is applying the product along the shoreline, that she be involved. Mr. Hathaway assured Ms. Marsico that she can be involved.

Seeing no one further from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Riley informed the Board that he attended the Lake Hopatcong Commission meeting this month. He attended to make sure this Board is represented in their quest for a piece of the \$10 Million Dollars the State has committed to lakes. Chairman Riley told them they should work together to present a combined application for the money they are requesting. Chairman Riley stated the Commission wants to ask for \$1 Million Dollars and they are already getting \$500,000. Chairman Riley said their thoughts are that although they have \$478,000 in the bank, they have that because of the tragedy two years ago with the death of a person on the harvester and they have not been able to find anyone to harvest this year, so they have done nothing this year. Chairman Riley suggested to them that both entities work together

and he questioned whether or not Lake Musconetcong was part of the Lake Hopatcong watershed because according to their website their charter is to maintain focus on Lake Hopatcong and its watershed. Chairman Riley said Mr. Lubnow of Princeton Hydro told him it is the Upper Musconetcong Watershed. Chairman Riley said he suggested to Mr. Hathaway that the Board apply for some of the money since Lake Musconetcong is a State lake. Mr. Hathaway relayed this to Senator Bucco who responded it is a vague area and difficult to show anything. Chairman Riley said he wanted the Board to know he attended the meeting and reached out. Mr. Hathaway questioned why the Board would not make an application for the Upper Musconetcong Watershed for some of the money. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that the Board should submit an application. It is \$10 Million Dollars for lakes in New Jersey. Chairman Riley stated he has not yet looked into how you apply for the money, but he will look into it. Mr. Hathaway suggested requesting money to fund the lake management plan. Chairman Riley suggested requesting \$50,000 per year. Mr. Hathaway asked that the Board obtain a copy of the Lake Hopatcong Commission minutes for the meeting Chairman Riley attended. The Clerk will submit an OPRA request for the October 12, 2021 Lake Hopatcong Commission minutes. Mr. Rattner said he will try to get support from the Musconetcong River Council, noting the lake is part of the water trail which is very unique.

Chairman Riley noted Mr. Keenan questioned where to deposit the money received from the sale of the equipment. He sent an email with information he received on interest rates. Ms. Maio stated she does not think it should be in a savings account. Mr. Hathaway suggested having \$50,000 remain liquid. They will need \$36,000 plus money for equipment for the micro biotic program and possibly something not foreseen. The remainder of the money should be deposited into something with interest. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the money should not be deposited into a savings account. Different CD options were discussed. Mr. Rattner recommended splitting the money into a 3-month, 6-month, 9-month and 12-month CD. He is very familiar with researching CD interest rates. Mr. Rattner and Mr. Shlesinger briefly discussed certain on-line CD's. Chairman Riley, noted Mr. Rattner's research and asked him to coordinate with Mr. Keenan and for them to choose the best option for the Board, noting it must be FDIC insured. The Board agreed to deposit \$50,000 into the savings account.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk